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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S20000044)  
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Margaret P. Grafeld, Director  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1833  
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
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AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
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AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 6341  
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1.O. 12065 XDS-1 8-2-08 (CHAPLIN, MAXWELL) OR-M  
TAGS SHUM, AR  
SUBJECT (U) HUMAN RIGHTSSUMMARY - AUGUST 2, 1979  
REF: BUENOS AIRES 6227

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY. DISCOVERY IN CHILE OF  
TWO URUGUAYAN CHILDREN WHO "VANISHED" FROM THEIR SUBURBAN  
BUENOS AIRES HOME IN SEPTEMBER OF 1976 SET OFF A NEW ROUND  
OF INTEREST AND COMENTARY REGARDING URUGUAYAN FAMILIES  
THAT HAD "BEEN DISAPPEARED" ALMOST THREE YEARS AGO. THE  
CHILDREN WERE FOUND BY A BRAZILIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION  
THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLYS MOST RECENT "DISAPPEAREDS"  
LIST WAS CONFISCATED FROM A DOWNTOWN PRINTING HOUSE.  
DE NICHILLO WAS RELEASED FROM POLICE CUSTODY, VISITED THE  
EMBASSY AND TOLD OF HIS TEMPORARY ARREST FOR INVOLVEMENT  
WITH TERRORISM BACK IN 1969. A MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

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FFICLA (SAN ROMAN) DENIED IN A JULY 30 CONVERSATION

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WITH EMBOFF THAT SECRET DETENTION CENTERS EXIST, THOUGH HE HALD OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT AT LEAST SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO "DISAPPEARED INTO THE SYSTEM" MIGHT SURFACE AGAIN. END INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY.

2. (U) THE BUENOS AIRES HERALD GAVE EXTENSIVE FIRST PAGE COVERAGE AUGUST 1 AND 2 OF TWO URUGUAYAN CHILDREN, ANATOLE BORIS JULIEN GRISONAS AND HIS SISTER EVA LUCIA, WHO WERE DISCOVERED IN CHILE LIVING WITH ADOPTIVE PARENTS ALMOST THREE YEARS AFTER HAVING VANISHED FROM THEIR PARENTS' HOME IN BUENOS AIRES. THE DISCOVERY WAS MADE AND PUBLISHED BY THE "COMMISSION FOR THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SOUTHERN TRIANGLE," WORKING OUT OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAO PAULO (BRAZIL). ACCORDING TO BUENOS AIRES PRESS STORIES THE COMMISSION BELIEVES THAT POLICE FORCES OF THE "SOUTHERN TRIANGLE" MAY HAVE COOPERATED IN KIDNAPPING COMPLETE FAMILIES OF URUGUYANS LIVING IN ARGENTINA.

THE TWO JULIEN GRISONAS CHILDREN VANISHED FROM THEIR SUBURBAN HOME ON SEPTEMBER 26, 1976. THE PRESS AT THAT TIME REPORTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A SHOOTOUT WITH TERRORISTS AT THE ADDRESS IN WHICH ONE PERSON (NEVER IDENTIFIED) WAS KILLED. THE TWO CHILDREN WERE FOUND ABANDONED IN VALPARAISO, CHILE ON DECEMBER 23 1976. THE CHILDREN'S MOTHER IS DEAD BUT THE FATHER MAY BE ALIVE AS A PRISONER IN URUGUAY, ACCORDING TO PRESS SOURCES.

ACCORDING TO THE HERALD, THE PATERNAL OF THE CHILDREN LED IN THE SEARCH AND IDENTIFIED THE YOUNGSTERS IN VALPARAISO ON JULY 26. THE TWO CHILDREN HAD BEEN TAKEN IN BY A CHILEAN COUPLE WHO, IN GOOD

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FAITH, WERE ON THE VERGE OF COMPLETING ADOPTION PROCEDURES. ACCORDING TO THE HERALD, THE REUNION OF THE GRANDMOTHER WITH THE CHILDREN AND THEIR FOSTER PARENTS WAS ARRANGED BY THE SANTIAGO OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES.

THE HERALD'S FIRST STORY ON THIS SUBJECT WENT ON TO ASSERT THAT IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER OF 1976 ONE HUNDRED AND TEN URUGUAYANS LIVING IN ARGENTINA

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WERE KIDNAPPED. EIGHTY NINE OF THEM, INCLUDING SIX CHILDREN, ARE STILL ON THE DISAPPEARED LIST. THE MISSING CHILDREN ARE MARINA ZAFFARONI AND SIMON ANTONIO RIQUELO, WHO DISAPPEARED IN 1976, A BABY ONLY A FEW DAYS OLD OF A COUPLE CALLE SANZ, WHO VANISHED IN FEBRUARY, 1978 AND BEATRIX LOURDES HERNANDEZ AND HER BROTHER AND SISTER WASHINGTON AND ANDREA, WHO WERE KIDNAPPED IN JULY 1, 1977. (ANOTHER URUGUAYAN CHILD AMARAL GARCIA, DISAPPEARED IN NOVEMBER OF 1974.) TWENTY SIX URUGUAYANS WHO WERE KIDNAPPED IN ARGENTINA EVENTUALLY APPEARED IN URUGUAY IN DETENTION. OTHER NEWSPAPERS, INCLUDING THE LARGE CIRCULATION CLARIN REPORTED BRIEFER ACCOUNTS OF THE CHILDREN'S BEING FOUND.

3. [REDACTED] XDS-4) DE NICHILLO'S STORY -----  
MIGUEL ANGEL DE NICHILLO VISITED THE EMBASSY ON AUGUST 1 TO REPORT THAT HE WAS FREED BY POLICE AUTHORITIES ON JULY 27 AND TO DESCRIBE THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF HIS ARREST ON JULY 14. (SEE BUENOS AIRES 6227.) ACCORDING TO DE NICHILLO, HE WAS A MEMBER IN 1969 OF A GROUP KNOWN AS THE FRENTE ARGENTINO DE LIBERACION, WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY SUFFERED DISPUTES OVER LEADERSHIP AND TACTICS AND WAS DISSOLVED (AFTER HAVING BEEN KNOWN BRIEFLY UNDER THE SAME INITIALS "FAL," THIS TIME SIGNIFYING FRENTE ARMADO DE LIBERACION). IN APRIL OF 1969 DE NICHILLO AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE [REDACTED]  
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FAL RAIDED A GROUP OF SOLDIERS BIVOUACKED AT THE CAMPO DE MAYO, WITH THE IDEA OF CAPTURING THEIR ARMS. DE NICHILLO DESCRIBED THE EVENT AS A FAILURE, FROM HIS GROUPS POINT OF VIEW. AMONG OTHER DISASTERS NAMES OF THE FAL RAIDERS BECAME KNOWN. (DE NICHILLO [REDACTED])

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ADDS HOWEVER THAT NO ONE WAS KILLED.)  
DE NICHILLO FLED ABROAD TO CHILE, WHERE HE WORKED  
BETWEEN 1970 AND 1973 FOR THE ALLENDE'S GOVERNMENT  
OFFICE OF LAND REFORM. HE RETURNED TO ARGENTINA AFTER  
PRESIDENT CAMPORA'S MAY 1 INAUGURATION AND AMNESTY.  
HE COULD NOT, HOWEVER, OBTAIN A NEW "CEDULA DE IDENTIDAD"  
FROM THE POLICE NOR A NEW "LIBRETA DE ENROLLAMIENTO"  
PROVING THAT HE HAD REGISTERED FOR MILITARY SERVICE,  
ON GROUNDS THAT A JUDGE CLAIMED THERE WAS A "PROCESS"  
PENDING AGAINST HIM FOR HIS PART IN THE 1969 EVENT.  
DE NICHILLO DID HOWEVER OBTAIN A "NATIONAL DOCUMENT OF  
IDENTITY" ISSUED BY THE CIVIL REGISTRY, WHICH HE USED  
OVER THE YEARS. SEVERAL TIMES, HE SAID HE WAS ASKED FOR  
HIS CEDULA BUT ALWAYS SUCCEEDED IN TALKING HIS WAY  
OUT OF ARREST BY PRESENTING HIS "CARTA" AND TALKING  
FAST. HE DROPPED FROM SIGHT FOR SHORT PERIODS OF  
TIME WHEN HE BELIEVED THAT PEOPLE MIGHT BE LOOKING

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FOR HIM, INCLUDING 14 MONTHS AGO WHEN HIS FRIEND  
JORGE KARAVELOS AND KARAVELOS' WIFE DISAPPEARED.  
ON THE 14TH OF JULY DE NICHILLO, HE SAYS, WAS  
CAUGHT IN A ROUTINE IDENTITY CHECK AT THE CONSTITUCION  
RAILROAD STATION. DE NICHILLO SAID THAT POLICE  
TOLD HIM DURING HIS ARREST THAT NO ORDER EXISTS FOR THE REARREST OF

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ALL PERSONS WHO WERE CHARGED OR CONVICTED OF CRIMES BEFORE THE CAMPORA AMNESTY. HE SAID THAT THIS TIME HIS NAME WAS FED INTO A POLICE COMPUTER FOR NOT HAVING A "CEDULA", AND THAT IN THIS WAY HE WAS SPOTTED AS A "FUGITIVE", HE WAS TAKEN BY THE POLICE TO A SERIES OF OVER OVERT PLACES OF DETENTION, QUESTION SHARPLY BUT "WITH NO ROUGH TREATMENT," AND RELEASED ON JULY 27 AS THE POLICE WERENOT INTERESTED IN FOLLOWING UP ON THE 1969 CHARGES.

EMBOFF ASKED DE NICHILLO WHETHER HE BELIEVES THIS IS- THE END OF THE MATTER. HE SAID THAT IN SO FAR AS THE POLICE WERE CONCERNED HE WAS ASSURED THAT INDEED IT WAS. HE FEARS HOWEVER THAT IRREGULAR ELEMENTS OF THE ARMY MAY HAVE NOTICED HIS NAME IN PRINT (HIS DISAPPEARANCE WAS REPORTED BY THE BUENOS AIRES HERALD AND HIS ARREST, SUBSEQUENTLY, BY OTHER NEWSPAPERS) AND TAKE REVENGE.

4. [REDACTED] XDS-4) PRINTING OUSE RAIDED -----  
ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 28, THE ALEMANN AND COMPANY PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT - WHOSE REPUTABLE NEWSPAPER ARGENTINSCHES TAGEBLATT SERVES ARGENTINA'S GERMAN SPEAKING COMMUNITY - WAS SURROUNDED AND SEARCHED AND ALL MATERIALS HAVING TO DO WITH A HUMAN RIGHTS PUBLICATION WERE CONFISCATED. ALTHOUGH NO IDENTIFICATION WAS MADE OF THE DOCUMENT AT THE TIME, THE SEIZURE WAS OF 30,000 NEWS-PRINTED VERSIONS OF [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS MOST RECENT LIST OF SOME 5,000 PERSONS REPORTED DISAPPEARED.  
(COMMENT: WHEN THE BUENOS AIRES HERALD DECLINED TO PRINT THE LIST - FOR TECHNICAL REASONS, APPARENTLY - AND PRENSA'S OWNER-EDITOR GAINZA RENEGED ON PRINTING IT, THE ASSEMBLY DECIDED TO INVEST THEMSELVES IN A COMMERCIAL PRINTING JOB WHICH WOULD THEN BE DISTRIBUTED BY MAIL OR OTHER MEANS.)

MEMBERS OF THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY BELIEVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD LEARNED SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE THE RAID OF THE PRINTING JOB THE ALEMANN COMPANY WAS UNDERTAKING, AND THAT A DISPUTE HAD ENSUED IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT DEMANDED THAT THE ALEMANN COMPANY STOP THE ASSEMBLY ORDER. THE COMPANY APPARENTLY REPLIED IT WOULD NOT

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DO SO WITHOUT A FORMAL POLICE ORDER. THE PUBLICATION HAD FIRST BEEN SCHEDULED TO BE DELIVERED ON TUESDAY JULY 24 BUT DELIVERY WAS SUBSEQUENTLY POSTPONED. IT HAD AT LAST BEEN ARRANGED THAT THE ASSEMBLY WOULD SEND A TRUCK TO PICK UP THE PUBLICATION ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON AT 5. THE POLICE ARRIVED AT 4:30 WITH A SIGNED DECREE FORBIDDING PUBLICATION OR DISTRIBUTION OF THE DOCUMENT ON GROUNDS THAT ALLEGATIONS WERE MADE WHICH DID NOT IDENTIFY SOURCES. IN FACT, EMBASSY WAS TOLD BY PERMANENT ASSEMBLY OFFICIALS, THE DOCUMENT IS PLAINLY SOURCED AS BEING A LIST MADE UP BY THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY, THE LIGA AND THE ECUMENICAL COUNCIL. THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY PAID A 50 PERCENT DEPOSIT IN ADVANCE ON THE TOTAL PROJECT (TOTAL COSTS WERE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF US \$5,000), AND HAD PAID THE OTHER 50 PERCENT ON FRIDAY THE DAY BEFORE THE PAPERS WERE SEIZED. PERMANENT ASSEMBLY LAWYERS ARE LOOKING NOW INTO WAYS IN WHICH THE COURTS CAN BE REQUESTED TO FORCE ALLOWING THE DISAPPEARED LIST TO BE RELEASED AND CIRCULATED, AND ALSO WAYS (AS A FALLBACK) THE ASSEMBLY CAN BE REPAID ITS MONEY FOR WHAT IT CONSIDERS STILL TO BE A LEGITIMATE PUBLIC ACTIVITY.

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5. XDS-1) UN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITIES GET THE NOD -----  
THE BUENOS AIRES DIRECTOR FOR THE OFFICE OF UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION HAS REPORTED THAT IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS HE HAS BEEN GIVEN PROMISE OF \$40,000 PER YEAR BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA TO SUPPORT UNITED NATIONS' INFORMATION ACTIVITY, PLUS AN ADDITIONAL \$10,000 THIS YEAR WHICH WILL GO INTO MOVING THE UNITED NATIONS FACILITY FROM ITS PRESENT INADEQUATE QUARTERS TO A MODERN NEW BUILDING. WHAT INTERESTS THE LOCAL UNITED NATIONS REPRESENTATIVE IS THAT US EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITIES IS WELL KNOWN TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT, AND THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S AGREEING TO FINANCE UN ACTIVITIES HERE CAN ONLY HAVE BEEN DONE WITHOUT HIS MIND. THE UNITED NATIONS HAS ALSO BEEN GIVEN A BUILDING IN MAR DEL PLATA FOR ITS INFORMATION

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CTIVITIES. THE UNITED NATIONS' SECRETARY FOR  
NFORMATION ACTIVITIES (A JAPANESE) WILL VISIT  
UENOS AIRES EARLY IN SEPTEMBER TO INAUGURATE THE  
N'S NEW QUARTERS.

. XDS-4) REPORT OF ANTI-SEMITIC TREATMENT AT  
A PLATA PRISON -----  
MBOFF WAS TOLD RECENTLY BY THE MOTHER OF A JEWISH  
EN PRISONER IN LA PLATA THAT AFTER HER SON REQUESTED  
IGHT OF OPTION RELEASE AND IN THIS CONNECTION PRESENTED  
CERTIFICATE ENTITLING HIM TO LEAVE FOR ISRAEL,  
N THREE OCCASIONS HE WAS CALLED INTO PRISON OFFICIALS' OFFICES  
ND ASKED TO WRITE STATEMENTS REGARDING "ZIONIST  
CTIVITIES IN ARGENTINA" AND "THE ZIONIST-ISRAELI  
ONNECTION WITH THE TERRORIST MOVEMENT HERE."  
ELIEVING THAT HE HAD TO DO THIS, OR AT THE VERY LEAST THAT  
T WOULD GET BETTER TREATMENT FOR HIM, THE YOUNG MAN

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ROTE WHAT WAS SUGGESTED TO HIM. INSTEAD OF

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IMPROVING HIS CHANCES HOWEVER HE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY BEATEN SEVERAL DAYS IN A ROW ON GROUNDS OF BEING AN ISRAELI AGENT AND ZIONIST SUPPORTER. HIS STATUS, HOWEVER, APPARENTLY SOON RETURNED TO NORMAL.

7. XDS-1) MINISTER OF INTERIOR OFFICIALS GIVES OPINION ON THE DISAPPEARED, RESISTENCIA REARRESTS, "DAM'S" AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS ----- DURING A LONG CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF ON JULY 30, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTERNAL SECURITY VICENTE SAN ROMAN COMMENTED (FULL MEMCON WILL BE PUCHED) THAT :

A) CLANDESTINE DETENTION CENTERS DO NOT EXIST. ASKED ABOUT PEOPLE WHO HAD DISAPPEARED "INTO THE SYSTEM" SAN ROMAN SAID THAT "ANY HAD SAVED THEMSELVES" BUT IMPLIED THAT OTHER WERE DEAD. (AT THE SAME TIME HOWEVER, SAN ROMAN AGREED TO LOOK INTO TWO 1978 DISAPPEARANCES - INDICATING THAT SOME CHANCE EXISTS THAT PEOPLE ARE HELD, POSSIBLY UNDER INTEROGATION, AND MIGHT STILL RESURFACE.)

B) THE MAY 12 DISAPPEARANCES. SAN ROMAN CLEARLY INDICATED THAT THE SIX DISAPPEARANCES OF MAY 12 (JORGE SZNAIDER PLUS FIVE, SEE BUENOS AIRES 4082) REPRESENT AN ABERRATION AND WERE "UNINTENDED" - THE WORK OF PEOPLE NOT YET WORKING WITHIN NEW GUIDELINES GIVEN LAST JANUARY.

C) THE RESISTENCIA REARRESTS. SAN ROMAN SAID THAT THE REARREST OF 27 PERSONS (NOT FIVE OR SIX, AS THE EMBASSY HAD HEARD) RELEASED DURING JUNE FROM LA PLATA HAS BEEN ORDERED. TWENTY-FIVE HAVE BEEN ROUNDED UP; TWO ARE STILL AT LARGE. IT WAS ALL THE RESULT OF A BUREAUCRATIC ERROR, HE EXPLAINED. THOUGH THE COMMISSION CONSIDER-

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ING PRISONERS' STATUS MARKED THE 27 FOR DELETION FROM PEN STATUS, IT WAS WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY WERE STILL TO BE HELD FOR TRIAL IN A MILITARY COURT IN RESISTENCIA. "CLERICAL ERROR" AT THE PRISON PERMITTED THE PRISONERS (TEMPORARY) RELEASE.

D) THE DAM'S. SAN ROMAN DENIED THAT THE CATEGORY "AT THE DISPOSITION OF MILITARY AUTHORITIES" STILL EXISTS. ALL SUCH PERSONSHE SAID ARE SLATED FOR TRIAL BY MILITARY TRIBUNAL, AND ARE SO CATEGORIZED IN

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OFFICIAL RECORDS.

E) THE HARGUINDEGUAY STATISTICS. SAN ROMAN PROMISED AND EXEGESIS OF THE JUNE 29 HARGUINDEGUY STATEMENT REGARDING PEN PRISONERS AND OTHER POLITICAL CATEGORIES.

8. (U) TIMERMAN CASE -----

ISRAELI AMBASSADOR RAM NYRGAD HIT A HORNET'S NEST WHEN HE DECLARED IN SALTA JULY 31 THAT HE BELIEVED JACOBO TIMERMAN SHOULD BE SET FREE AND ALLOWED TO SETTLE IN ISRAEL, BECAUSE - "HE HAS THAT RIGHT, BEING A JEW". NYRGAD SAID APPEARED TO HIM THAT TIMERMAN WAS IN A KIND OF ALIMBO - NEITHER A PRISONER NOR DECLARED INNOCENT. "HE MUST BE SET FREE. I AM NO A JUDGE BUT ONE MUST RESPECT ARGENTINE JUDGES. TIMERMAN WAS TRIED AND DECLARED INNOCENT BY MILITARY AND CIVILIAN COURTS. BOTH JUDGEMENTS DETERMINED THAT THE CASE WAS NOT ONE OF SUBVERSION." THE AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS WERE QUICKLY FOLLOWED BY STATEMENTS FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THAT MINISTRY'S "CONSTERNATION" AT THE AMBASSADOR'S HAVING MADE A PUBLIC STATEMENT REGARDING AN "INTERNAL ARGENTINE MATTER."

9. (U) ANCHORENA DECLARATION -----

ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE TOMAS DE ANCHORENA WAS ALSO IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK WHEN HE DECLARED ON ARRIVAL AT EZEIZA AIRPORT FROM PARIS AUGUST 1 THAT

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THE CAMPAIGN ABROAD AGAINST ARGENTINA, ESPECIALLY IN FRANCE, HAS STARTED UP AGAIN. ANCHORENA SAID THAT THE ANTI-ARGENTINE CAMPAIGN WHICH REACHED A PEAK IN THE EARLY PART OF LAST YEAR HAD VIRTUALLY COME TO A STANDSTILL SINCE, BUT THAT NOW IT HAD BEEN STARTED AGAIN, HE BELIEVED, "BY THOSE INTERESTED IN CAUSING CONFUSION" BEFORE THE FORTH COMING VISIT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

10. (7) MANRIQUE VISIT IN US -----

THE LOCAL PRESS GAVE WIDE COVERAGE TO THE VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES OF "FEDERALIST" FORMER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE FRANCISCO MANRIQUE. MANRIQUE MET WITH SENATOR KENNEDY, WHO ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS HERE

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EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS  
SITUATION GENERALLY AND REFUSAL OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERN-  
MENT TO ALLOW FORMER PRESIDENT HECTOR CAMPORA TO LEAVE  
THE COUNTRY IN PARTICULAR. KENNEDY ALSO EXPRESSED  
CONCERN TO MANRIQUE ABOUT THE JACOBO TIMERMAN CASE. MANRIQUE  
IS DESCRIBED AS HAVING REJECTED "FOREIN INTERFERENCE"  
INTO ARGENTINA'S HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION AND HAVING  
DEFENDED THIS COUNTRY BY SAYING THAT IN ORDER TO  
APPRECIATE CONDITIONS HERE ONE MUST HAVE LIVED THROUGH  
THE PAST FEW DIFFICULT YEARS AND SEE THINGS AS THEY  
ARE FROM BUENOS AIRES.  
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